

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2023/24

Meeting/Date: Grants Panel – 21 June 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Community and Health –
Councillor B Pitt
Executive Councillor for Corporate and Shared
Services – Councillor M Hassall

Report by: Community Resilience Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

The Community Chest grant scheme aims to help small groups and organisations deliver projects which benefit the local community. Over the last two years, the Community Chest has welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the Community Chest grant scheme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

Community groups and organisations requiring financial help to deliver projects that address one or more of the challenges are invited to apply from 1st April 2023. Applications must be for projects based in Huntingdonshire and where the significant majority of beneficiaries are Huntingdonshire residents.

Councillors Pitt and Hassall confirmed their wish for any funding left over from 2022/23 to be rolled over into the budget for 2023/24. At the time of writing this report, the proposal to roll over funding is being considered by the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources. If authorised, this would bring the total budget for 2023/24 to £49,769.

On 15th September 2022, the Council announced that it would be setting up a Warm Spaces Network. In 2022/23, funding was used to support communities

through the cost of living crisis. The Council recognises that the social aspects of Warm Spaces are just as important as providing somewhere warm for people to congregate and in that light, where an existing Warm Space can demonstrate to have had a significant positive impact, the Council welcomes applications of up to £500 per year to help keep these facilities and activities open.

The Grants Panel will meet monthly to consider and determine any applications received.

A summary of the applications that have been received since the 1st April 2023 will be circulated ahead of the meeting on 21 June 2023 **(TO FOLLOW)**.

Recommendation(s):

The Panel is

RECOMMENDED

To consider the applications that have been submitted to the Community Chest 2023/24 funding programme to date and whether they meet award criteria. Following this, to decide which applications will be allocated funding.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline details of the applications received from groups or organisations representing Huntingdonshire communities for project funding from the 2023/24 Community Chest. Over the last two years, the Community Chest has welcomed applications that focused on helping residents during and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the Community Chest grant scheme welcomes applications from community groups and organisations who would like to support the District Council in achieving the following priorities that have been set out within the Corporate Plan for 2023-28:

- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Helping people in crisis
- Lowering carbon emissions

1.2 Additionally, the Council continues to recognise the importance of its Warm Hubs and encourages applications from existing Warm Spaces that can demonstrate a significant positive outcome.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY?

2.1 In setting the Council budget for 2023/24 £30,000 was set aside for the Community Chest Award Scheme. The Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources is currently considering a proposal to roll over left over from 2022/23 into the budget for 2023/24. On 29th March 2023, the Grants Panel held their last meeting of the 2022/23 financial year and spent £25,350 of the £45,119 budget.

Budget for 2023/24	£30,000
Unspent budget from 2022/23	£19,769
Total budget for 2023/24 (if approved by the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)	£49,769

2.2 The maximum amount that can be applied for remains as £1,000, with the exception of Warm Spaces grants which are capped at £500. Successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation of their project demonstrating the impact that the funding has had, later in the year.

2.3 Once the funding has been allocated, the Community Chest will close.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Appendix 3 of the report has been marked **TO FOLLOW** but will provide a summary of the applications that have been received since the 1st April 2023. In establishing the Community Chest for 2023/24, funding criteria will be used, and it is against these criteria that the applications have been assessed.

4. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

- 4.1 The funding awarded for the 2023/24 scheme must be used against projects delivered in the 2023/24 financial year.

5. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 5.1 At ongoing meetings of the Grants Panel, Members will determine which projects should be allocated funding. Officers will then advise all those organisations who submitted an application on their success or otherwise in being awarded funding.
- 5.2 Groups or organisations awarded funding must be able to confirm that the project can be delivered in the financial year the award is made, i.e. before 31st March 2024.

6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The Community Chest programme links directly to the Council's Corporate Plan 2023-28, specifically the following priorities:
- Improving the quality of life and well-being for everyone
 - Keeping people out of crisis
 - Helping people in crisis
 - Lowering carbon emissions

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Community Chest and Warm Spaces Network are advertised by the Council through a wide range of media including the District Council website, press releases and social media. Further communications will be made to advertise the funding available in 2023/24.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The funding of £30,000 allocated to the Community Chest 2023/24 is within the Council's approved budget.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 9.1 Those applications that are recommended for consideration for approval are those that demonstrate that they satisfy the eligibility criteria set by the Council for the Community Chest Award Scheme 2023/24.

10. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

[Appendix 1 - Huntingdonshire District Council Community Chest 2023 - 24 – Funding Criteria](#)

[Appendix 2 – Warm Spaces](#)

Appendix 3 - List of applications received, with Officer comment (**TO FOLLOW**).

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Community Chest 2023/24 Eligibility Criteria

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